



**TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON RAISED BILL S.B. 948, AN ACT ADDRESSING
EDUCATION FUNDING AND RACIAL EQUITY**

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Charlene Colson. I'm a mom and lifelong resident of Bridgeport. I am also a member of FaithActs for Education and am here to speak in support of SB 948.

To be completely honest, I'm angry. I'm angry that I have to sit here and tell you all what you already know just so you can have enough reason to do what is right. I'm angry that I am a product of a school system that failed me and is now failing my son, who works extremely hard day in and day out to make something of himself as a student.

I'm angry at the experiences that me and my family have had to go through because people don't respect us based on where we're from and the color of our skin. It makes me angry that a lot of you will sit here and smile in our faces and tell us you want to help while having no intention of doing anything about our problems.

We aren't asking for handouts! We aren't making excuses for circumstances that are in our control. We just want our kids to be educated like the kids in Fairfield and Greenwich and Westport are. But you already know all of this! Because your kids probably attend really good public schools or you can afford to send them to private schools.

Let me ask you something: If I asked you to let my son swap schools with your children or grandchildren, what would you say? Just sit with that answer in your head.

Please don't make me have to come back up here next year and ask you for the same thing. We need Education Justice NOW.

Charlene C Colson
576 Hawley Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06606

FaithActs for Education
857 Post Road, Suite 310
Fairfield, CT 06824